

Recognitions at September 2009 State Board Meeting

The State Board of Education recognized South Carolina Teacher of the Year Bryan Coburn and the four Honor Roll Teachers of the Year at its meeting Wednesday, September 9. As Teacher of the Year, Coburn received a \$25,000 cash award, a Dell laptop computer and a BMW Z-4 Roadster (manufactured at BMW's South Carolina plant) to use for a year. Honor Roll teachers, who were finalists in the state Teacher of the Year selection process, each received \$10,000, a Dell computer, a set of Michelin tires and a Jostens ring. Each individual district teacher of the year receives \$1,000, and all district nominees receive various gifts donated by corporate sponsors.

- **Teacher of the Year Bryan Coburn**

State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex (left) and State Board member Dr. Britt Blackwell (right in photo) congratulate Bryan Coburn, pre-engineering, computer programming and business teacher at York District 3's Northwestern High School. Coburn is a 19-year teaching veteran. He mentors new teachers and assists colleagues seeking National Board Certification.

A School Improvement Council member, Coburn has been recognized as a master teacher by Project Lead the Way, providing continuing education and mentoring for teachers across the United States, and is a master teacher for advanced placement in computer science.

He graduated from Milligan College with a bachelor's degree in accounting and computer science and earned a master's degree in teaching from Winthrop University. He has also studied at the University of North Carolina, the University of South Carolina and Rochester Institute of Technology.



- **Honor Roll Teacher Amanda McKee**



State Superintendent Jim Rex (right in photo) congratulates Amanda McKee, ninth and 10th grade algebra and geometry teacher at Florence District Five's Johnsonville High School. McKee graduated with a bachelor's degree in math education from the University of South Carolina and is currently working on master's degree in curriculum and instruction through the University of Scranton. She is also an American Cancer Society Relay for Life volunteer and works with the elderly and the needy through her church.

In 2007, McKee received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching. She is National Board certified. McKee says she knows what it feels like not to understand math, so she's determined to help her students develop a love for the subject. Her ultimate goal is for them to think mathematically. She was accompanied at the board meeting by principal Stevie Phillips, district superintendent John Morris and assistant superintendent Randy Smiley.

- **Honor Roll Teacher Derenda Marshall**

State Superintendent Jim Rex and State Board member Gerrita Postlewait (at right in photo) congratulate Derenda Marshall, science teacher at McDonald Elementary School in Georgetown County. Marshall came from a family where her father worked two jobs and her mother was chronically ill. Her mother's smiles, waves and words of encouragement got her through the day and kept her focused.

Today, Marshall seeks to be the wind that lifts her students to success, the same way her mother was for her. She is devoted to teaching in schools where poverty levels are high, challenges are numerous and students are at risk. Marshall earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Converse College. National Board Certified, she has taught for 24 years. Principal Miriam Daniels also was on hand for Marshall's recognition at the board meeting.



- **Honor Roll Teacher Deborah Moore**

State Superintendent Jim Rex and State Board member Charles McKinney congratulate Deborah Moore, first grade teacher at Gallman Elementary School in Newberry County. One of eight children from a poor family living in a small house by the edge of a main road, Moore didn't grow up with books. When she first stepped into a classroom, she didn't have school supplies and had never held a pencil.



Today as a teacher, Moore gets to know her students, creates engaging opportunities and builds inquiry activities. She allows students to wonder, ask questions and make connections and mistakes.

She knows there are many roads to each of their goals and standards, and she tries to find a road that will guide each child to that destination.

A 10-year teaching veteran, Moore earned a bachelor's degree

from Northern Kentucky University and a master's degree from Southern Wesleyan University. She was accompanied by district superintendent Bennie Bennett and principal Cathie Hartzog.

- **Honor Roll Teacher Dywanna Smith**

State Superintendent Jim Rex and State Board member Rose Sheheen (at left in photo) congratulate Dywanna Smith, a seventh grade English language arts teacher at Hand Middle School in Richland District One. Smith believes that literature cannot simply be read, but must be experienced. Her classroom provides an atmosphere conducive for learning while promoting dynamic discussions.

By helping her students see themselves in the pages of a book, Smith teaches them how their lives connect with the world. She teaches writing not only as a necessary life skill, but as a tool for enrichment and catharsis. Her students analyze the importance of words and their ability to change a character's life or ignite a nation to act.

A daughter of educators, Smith earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the University of South Carolina. She has taught for seven years and is National Board certified. Smith was accompanied by principal Marisa Vickers and district superintendent Dr. Percy Mack.

